

Minutes

State Medevac Committee

November 18, 2005

Called to order at 10:02

Adjourned at 11:56

Location: The Place at Innsbrook

Meeting called by: Randy Abernathy

Chair: Randy Abernathy

OEMS Staff: Paul Sharpe, Russ Stamm, Michael Berg, Christy Saldana.

Attendees: Allen Wolfe Jr., Anita Ashby, Bob Knox, Earl Carter, David Truman, Don Childs, Jay Cullen, Jeff Hamilton, John Ratliff, Karen Hamilton, Kathy Colantuono, Linda Sayles, Reece, Paul Davenport, Robin Davis, Terry Austin, Bobby Lukhard, Chris Thomson, Ed Coleman, Lisa Clapp, Maggi McCauley, Monnie Brown, Peter Martin, Purvis Dawson, Rob Hamilton.

Agenda Topics

Introductions

A welcome was offered by the Chair at opening of the meeting. The Chair commended the Committee for their efforts in developing the draft set of air medical regulations that is being presented today at the EMS Advisory Board. A special commendation was given to those that also attended the two day work session at Virginia Beach in October.

The Chair also wishes to congratulate to Nightingale Regional Air Ambulance for achieving the Governors EMS Agency of the year award.

Approval of February 4, 2005 Meeting

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the February 4, 2005 State Medevac Committee Meeting. This was the Committee's last official meeting. A motion was made by Bob Knox and seconded by Robin Davis; the motion to accept the minutes was unanimous with no corrections.

Review of Draft Regulations

The Chair announced that today we will review the draft set of air medical regulations and answer any questions the Committee has. There have been comments received about minor grammatical errors and the need for clarification of some of the definitions.

The intention of (the meeting) today is to hear comments from the Committee Members and listen to their suggestions. The draft will then be redistributed electronically and public comment shared via the Medevac list serve. Public comments via the list serve will be welcomed until January 01, 2006. After January 01, 2006 the draft will be finalized and brought to the January 12, 2006 Medevac Committee meeting for approval as a whole.

The document will then be brought as a final draft to the EMS Advisory Board at their regularly scheduled February 03, 2006 meeting.

Michael Berg stated he has been advised by the VDH Adjudication Officer that effective November 17, no new requests for regulatory changes will be acted upon until the new State administration is in place. Based on the importance of these regulations, we could possibly put them on a "fast track". It appears that new regulations will not begin the official regulatory review process until April 2006.

Kathy Colantuono asked about the ability to refuse an EMS agency license to Virginia Beach. "Is there not a way to not allow them to establish their service as there is not a need"? It was explained by OEMS staff that we do not currently have any regulations in place that would prevent us from allowing a service to obtain an EMS agency license.

Bob Knox brought up the discussion of proceeding with the certificate of public need (COPN) process.

Motion: Bob Knox motioned that we explore the COPN process with the new administration, if a change in VDH administration occurs. **Second;** by Kathy Colantuono. The motion was amended to state "to revisit" this issue if there is an administrative change. The motion was unanimously passed.

The different options of how to communicate a COPN process for the air medical industry to the new administrative leaders was discussed.

The Chair states we will emphasize to the new administration, if one comes into place, that this is a high priority issue.

In addition to the Virginia Beach Police planning an additional Medevac service there is also an agency from Pennsylvania planning on establishing an operation in Virginia.

Paul Davenport identifies that the draft air medical regulations still have weaknesses in handling the proliferation of air medical services.

Discussion about communicating with local government officials from the City of Virginia Beach and informing them of what the current needs of the Medevac System in Virginia are. Kathy Colantuono requests we send a general letter of non support (of the VB Police establishing a new service) to the local government and EMS Councils.

The Chair discussed that we could work through VAGEMSA to try and educate localities about Medevac.

The Chair also offered to speak directly to the necessary persons in Virginia Beach about offering to educate them on current affairs in Medevac service in Virginia.

Draft Review

Discussion on the site review process. OEMS explained the desire to have the site review process and provided some education on how competing agencies are able to perform site reviews within the trauma system.

The following are suggested changes to the current Medevac Regulations draft:

- Page 6 D.2 add the site review team shall be “selected by OEMS”.
- Page 8 & 9 correct the outline format, change numbers 4, 5 and 6 to E, F and G and delete 7 height/weight.
- Page 14. when you cannot complete the mission, Kathy C. offered that she does not feel as if the paragraph clearly states to call the closest appropriate air medical service. Move #4 to the operations section of the document. Discussion that this paragraph too vague. Recollection is that the intent of this paragraph was to prevent agencies from not using the closest agency instead of there own next closest.
- Page 15 section 7 Karen H request state rotor wing only.
- Page 18 ALS, BLS and Critical Care definitions reviewed. The word “would” was changed to “could”.
- Paul D. to provide definition of air medical communications officer.
- Page 22 under 3.b.2 remove “and possessing the equivalent skills of an EMT-Paramedic”. Also add EMT-Paramedic to 3.C.
- Page 23, remove flight from Flight paramedic.
- Page 24 Karen Hamilton suggests that we add that the second provider on a fixed wing mission may be BLS.
- Page 29 #5 add within mission profile added to the body of number five.
- Pages 26 & 27 remove all fixed wing exclusions as the opening paragraph on page 24 covers all of these exclusions.
- Page 29 add “within mission profile to #5
- Page 30 #7.A.add within mission profile. #7.A.4 remove the word “scene” and fixed wing exclusions.
- Page 32 A.3.c cot is not a word used for stretcher, replace cot with stretcher and also add as specified by FAA regulations. A.3.f exclude this section, it is covered elsewhere in the regulations.
- Page 33 item 5.J remove use of cell phones is covered under FAA regulations and does not to be covered in these regulations.
- Page 34 #6 outline needs to be fixed.
- Page 38 2.v change cot to stretcher, 3.a remove the words “all the” in this sentence to reflect that crews to do not have to carry every medication they are approved to use. 3.e correct the spelling of Magill forceps.
- Page 39 remove on board at all times from infusion pumps. The fact that infusion pumps is on the list of required equipment makes this redundant. The intent is not to remove infusion pumps from the aircraft.

Chair Report

Best Practices; the Chair would like to appoint four people to look at a “Best Practices” concept. Terry Austin, Paul Davenport, Robin Davis and Kathy Colantuono all agreed to work on this project.

Committee Composition; The Chair states he has spoken with the Chair of the EMS Advisory Board about this issue. The thought is that there may be a need to have other members on the Medevac Committee that have a vested interest in the air medical industry. The Chair would like to hear recommendations from the Committee Members during the upcoming meetings, of who they think may be of benefit to this committee, i.e. an OMD that is not involved in the air medical interest.

Program Announcements

US Park Police Chris Perkins was introduced as replacing Kathy Harasek. Karen Hamilton reports they brought on an additional OMD, Dr. Raul Rodriguez.

New Business

Robin sent out a request to receive information on contact names for the Medevac community and still needs med flight II.

Old Business

None

Closing Remarks by Chair

Closing remarks by the Chair; the Chair stated his appreciation to the Committee Members and their agencies that supported them for their participation in this process [Regulations Development]

Lastly: a couple weeks ago the Chair gave a presentation on air medical services in Virginia and some individuals have commented on the accuracy of his comments. He has spoken to the staff that arranged the educational event and they have no issues with the class. The Chair considers this a closed issue.

Dave Truman continued to raise the issue, providing examples which were said, against the meeting format being provided by the Chair. Mr. Davenport asks, as the Chair of this Committee, to please be careful on how he represents us.

Kathy C. stated that shortly after the Chair taught this class, Nightingale staff was told by a provider that they were told not to call a Medevac helicopter anymore.

Scheduled Meetings

Regularly Scheduled Meetings:

January 12, April 13, July 13 and October 19, 2006.

The Location “The Place at Innsbrook” 4036 Cox Rd. Glen Allen.